

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /024 W

----- 060055

R 010602Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USDOC/USTS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

UNCLAS TOKYO 17652

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: JAPANESE TRAVEL TO GUAM

SUMMARY: OUTLINES EXISTING PROBLEMS CONCERNING JAPANESE TRAVEL TO GUAM OVER YEAREND/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD.

JW-7-101. PAA/TYO, AS RESULT OF THEIR ONGOING LABOR DISPUTE, ANNOUNCED FRIDAY THAT ALL FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUAM AND JAPAN WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL DISPUTE IS SETTLED AT SOME UNKNOWN FUTURE DATE. THIS SUSPENSION COULD WELL INCLUDE THE YEAREND/NEW YEAR PEAK TRAVEL PERIOD FOR JAPANESE, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AS MANY AS 4,500 ALREADY BOOKED JAPANESE WILL BE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO GUAM OVER THE WEEKLONG YEAREND HOLIDAY PERIOD. LABOR DISPUTE HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER, AND ALREADY GUAM HAS LOST SOME 800 JAPANESE TRAVELERS DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER. IN VIEW THIS CRISIS, DELEGATION OF GVB OFFICIALS CURRENTLY VISITING JAPAN IN HOPES FINDING SOME SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. AT CONFERENCE TODAY WITH USTS, GVB OFFICIALS, JAPANESE WHOLEALERS AND PAA/JAL REPRESENTATIVES, IT WAS REVEALED THAT PAA/NYC MADE FINAL DECISION TO SUPEND ALL GUAM PEAK HOLDIAY SEASON FLIGHTS INSTEAD OF ITS FLIGHTS ON OTHER SECTORS SERVED BY MULTIPLE CARRIERS ON WHICH PASSENGERS COULD STILL BE ACCOMMODATED. PAA/TYO CONTINUES TO STRIVE FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO SAVE SITUATION. HOWEVER, JAL IS ALREADY BOOKED SOLID DURING THIS PEAK PERIOD AND CANNOT ACCOMMODATE ANY MORE PASSENGERS DUE EXTREMELY UNCLASSIFIED

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HEAVY BOOKING OF AIRCRAFT AND FLIGHT CREW UTILIZATION. IT

WAS SUGGESTED THAT ONE POSSIBLE WAY TO ALLEVIATE SITUATION
WOULD BE FOR PAA/NYC TO RECONSIDER REINSTATING A NUMBER OF
GUAM FLIGHTS DURING ABOVE PEAK PERIOD. MIGHT IT THEREFORE
BE POSSIBLE FOR USTS/HQ TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH PAA/NYC?
WE CONSIDER THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH COULD RESULT IN LOSS
OF SOME DOLS400 PER CAPITA, OR TOTAL OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS
EXPENDITURES BY OVER 5,000 JAPANESE TRAVELERS TO GUAM, A
PRIME VISIT USA DESTINATION FOR JAPANESE. SITUATION ALSO
MEANS ESTIMATED LOSS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS REVENUE FOR PAN
AMERICAN. WE HERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER GUAM'S TOURIST
INDUSTRY WHICH WILL BE TAKING ITS THIRD SERIOUS BEATING
WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD FOLLOWING THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE
PROBLEM AND TYPHOON PAMELA. IF SITUATION CANNOT BE CORRECTED
WITHIN TWO WEEKS, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT GUAM'S LOSSES
COULD PULL JAPANESE VISIT USA TOTALS FOR BICENTENNIAL YEAR
BACK INTO THE MINUS COLUMN WE HAVE JUST COME OUT OF. WE
STRONGLY SOLICIT USTS/HQ SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE GUAM TORUISM
INDUSTRY AND REPEAT THE SUGGESTION THAT YOU CONTACT PAA
HEADQUARTERS TO OBTAIN A READING ON THE SITUATION.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, GENERAL STRIKES, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO17652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760444-0872
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761281/aaaacsdn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE TRAVEL TO GUAM SUMMARY: OUTLINES EXISTING PROBLEMS CONCERNING JAPANESE TRAVEL TO GUAM OVER YEAREND/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD.
TAGS: ETRD
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006